

**Statement**  
**Insurance Association of Connecticut**  
**Labor and Public Employees Committee**  
**HB 5875, An Act Clarifying and Updating the Mechanism by Which**  
**Workers' Compensation Benefits are Paid Upon an Employee's Death.**  
**February 17, 2015**

I am Eric George, President of the Insurance Association of Connecticut (IAC). The Insurance Association of Connecticut (IAC) opposes HB 5875, An Act Clarifying and Updating the Mechanism by which Workers' Compensation Benefits are Paid Upon an Employee's Death.

HB 5875 would require workers' compensation benefits due under C.G.S. Section 31-308 to be paid to the deceased employee's estate when that employee has no surviving spouse, civil partner, dependents or children. Such an expansion of benefit payments would be unwarranted and contrary to the nature of the benefits themselves.

Under C.G.S. Section 31-308(d), benefits are currently paid, upon the injured employee's death, to that person's surviving spouse, dependents or children. That standard is proper, in that the benefits are intended to compensate dependent family members for the loss of financial support caused by the employee's injury.

HB 5875, by requiring payment of such benefits into the deceased employee's estate, would result in benefits ultimately going to individuals who were in no way financially dependent on the injured employee at the time of injury. Such a requirement would be contrary to the longstanding scope and intent of the statutory benefits, and would add unnecessary and improper costs to the system.

Please note that the IAC takes no position on sections (1) and (2) of HB 5875, which provide for the inclusion of "parties to a civil union" in C.G.S. Section 31-308(d) as well as removing gender-specific pronouns. IAC would not object to the adoption of those provisions.

However, as drafted with HB 5875 containing section (3) concerning extending workers' compensation death benefits to the decedent's estate, IAC urges rejection of HB 5875.